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A FEW ITEMS FROM PUNTA ARENAS



For those of you with limited (or no) interest in my diversions to the tip of South America, you can skip this article! For those of you who find this mildly interesting or amusing, I offer the following.

There is a very neat website maintained by Duncan Campbell (<http://patfotos.org/eng/index.html>). I have much of my Tierra del Fuego and Punta Arenas items shown there. Because of this, I was contacted in January by a lady in Chile offering a stock certificate and a few tokens. Through negotiation (there wasn't much negotiation, I offered too much!), I acquired two new tokens from Punta Arenas, and a very interesting stock certificate.



Menéndez Behety was a very large trading company in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Based mainly in Punta Arenas, their interests included, but were not limited to wool, meat, shipping and general commerce. The medal above notes their 50th anniversary and was not part of this purchase.

continued on page 31

North of 60°

South of 50°

EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

After a week of visiting mom in Mass., I came back, and Jerry left on a 3 week vacation. So I am in the store alone, trying to get this out on time - I failed. It is only a little late.

With this in mind, I had to come up with something quick and when that is the case, you know it will be something where my current interest lies.

Acquiring the stock and tokens from Punta Arenas was interesting. A friend who retired to Chile actually went to the lady's house to purchase them for me, then another friend (his sister-in-law) brought them to Anchorage. I picked them up at Roy's Coins when I went down for the Quarter Commission meeting in April.

It seems that tokens from the ends of the world hold a strange attraction to many people. Punta Arenas tokens may not be as popular as Alaska tokens, but they share the same frontier appeal. After all, on the Pan-Am Highway, they are the end of the road!

Prices realized this month include our April 8 auction. Note the total savings to mail bidders from their maximum bids.

On eBay, there are a lot of tokens not receiving their opening bids. Some don't look too high, so I must guess it is just lack of interest. There are a few sellers shooting for the moon with their BIN (buy it now) prices. Fortunately, there are no takers!

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From our auction of April 8th.

228	Anchorage B-13a	230
229	Anchorage B-26a	70mb*
230	Anchorage B-28bI	80mb*
231	Anchorage B-37a	160
232	Chatanika, B-3 a and b	240mb*
233	Chitina B-5a	260
234	Cordova B-34b	55
235	Cordova B-36a	25
236	Dalby B-1a	250mb
237	Dillingham B-4a	180
238	Fairbanks B-10, a-d	310
239	Fairbanks B-12a	70mb*
240	Fairbanks B-17a	30
241	Fairbanks B-17b	600mb*
242	Fairbanks B-24b	110
243	Fairbanks B-26a	230mb*
244	Fairbanks B-27b	190mb*
245	Flat B-2 a and b	150mb
246	Indian Mountain B-1, aI to cI	34
247	Juneau B-40a I and II	30mb*
248	Ketchikan B-4b	40
249	Ketchikan B-32a	40
250	Latouche B-1a	50mb*
251	Murphy Dome 3 pcs	50mb
252	(Nome) B-2a	175mb*
253	Nome B-13a	450mb*
254	Nome B-34a	200mb*
255	Nome B-36a	25
256	Palmer, set of 8 ARRC	750mb*
257	Skagway B-13a	50mb*
258	Skagway B-24a	35
259	Snug Harbor B-2a	40
260	Talkeetna B-2a	45
261	Valdez B-16, aII and bII	32mb*
262	Yes Bay B-3 a and b	190mb*
263	Alaska Coal Dollar	25mb*
264	Fbks. Trade Dollar, silver	40
265	Sitka TradeDollar, silver	35mb*
266	Fbks. Coin Club medals, 1965	30
267	Two oil related items	40mb*
268	Alaskan Express medal	50
269	Iditarod belt buckle	45
270	1989 State medal set	55
271	1990 State medal set	35
272	Error State medal	20
273	1993 State medal	30
274	Error State medal	50
275	1996 State medals	30
276	Iron Dog medal, State medal	36
277	Rubles to Statehood	100mb*
278	Congressional Report: Fbks Flood	70mb*

mb=sold to mail bidder. * = reduced bid.

Total savings to mail bidders below their actual bid - \$1460

PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Cleary, Willis & Welch, 25¢, B-5a	50.00OB	Valdez, CBB Gold Nugget, \$1, B-4cI	OB1,595.00NB
Cordova, Horseshoe, 6½¢, B-19a	OB49.00NB	Valdez, CBB Gold Nugget, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1,595.00NB
Cordova, Horseshoe Liquor, 6½¢, B-20a	OB45.00NB	Valdez, CBB Gold Nugget, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1,595.00NB
Cordova, Little, 12½¢, B-22a	OB175.00NB	Valdez, CBB Gold Nugget, \$1, B-4cI	71.00
Cordova, Northern Drug, 25¢, B-28a	129.83	Wrangell, Patenaude, 12½¢, B-8a	1,356.00
Egegik, Nakat Pkg. Co., 25¢, B-1c	153.50	Yakutat, St. Elias Pkg., 5¢, B-2a	290.00
Egegik, Nakat Pkg. Co., 50¢, B-1d	257.00	Wrangell, Wrangell Hotel, 12½¢, B-11b	355.00
Excursion Inlet, A&PSCCo., \$5, unlisted	937.00	Dawson, YT, M&N Bar & Billiard, 25¢	342.56
Fairbanks, Bredlie's, 25¢, B-8b	250.00OB	Dawson, YT, Tanana Bar & Pool, 25¢	175.00OB
Fairbanks, Chisholm & Hall, 12½¢, B-12a	OB125.00NB	Dawson, YT, Tanana Bar & Pool, 25¢	RLBIN325.00
Fairbanks, Hall's Bookstore, 12½¢, B-24b	175.00OB	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT	BIN295.00DNS
Fairbanks, Idle Hour, 10¢, B-27b	OB227.50	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT	152.50
Fairbanks, Nordale Hotel, 25¢, B-38a, flat 2	150.00OB	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT	BIN275.00DNS
False Pass, Harris, 10¢, B-1b	281.00	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT	164.10
Flat, Kruhm, 50¢, B-2b	78.00	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT, NGC-62	241.5
Fort Yukon, Carney & Irvin, 25¢, B-1a	OB45.00NB	AYPE, 1909, ¼ DWT	OB9.99
Juneau, Burford's Corner, \$1, B-12d	OB90.00NB	AYPE, 1909, ½ DWT, NGC-62	224.50
Juneau, Central Hotel, 12½¢, B-15b	356.51	AYPE, 1909, 1 DWT	375.00OB
Juneau, Circle City Hotel, 12½¢, B-16b	332.57	AYPE, 1909, 1 DWT, loop removed	113.50
Juneau, The Mecca, 6¼¢, B-50b	OB125.00NB	Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1902, octagonal, hole	OB99.00NB
Juneau, Purity Pharmacy, 6¼¢, B-61 unlisted	OB29.99??	Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1902, octagonal, NGC-62	828.00
Ketchikan, Hotel Connell, 5¢, B-11a	103.51	Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1902, round, NGC-62	709.00
Ketchikan, Quality Bakery, 1 sm. loaf, B-48a	16.39	Alaska Gold, ½ Pinch, 1902, octagonal, NGC-62	828.00
Ketchikan, Quality Bakery, 1 sm. loaf, B-48a	OB25.00NB	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1897, round	BIN895.00NB
Koyukuk, Evans, \$1, B-1d	416.00	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1897, round	410.00
Kukak Bay, Hemrich, 25¢, B-1c	OB150.00NB	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1897, round	504.00
Long, Willis, 25¢, B-2a	OB40.00NB	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1897, round, NGC-62	735.00
McGrath, McGrath Pool Hall, 25¢, B-3a	407.00	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1897, round, NGC-65	OB.99
Mt. Village, Sheppard Trd., B-1, Set of 6	75.00OB	Alaska Gold, 1 Pinch, 1898, octagonal	571.00
Nenana, Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3aII	OB25.00NB	Rainier Beer, Alaska's Favorite, encased cent	39.99
Nome, Arctic, 12½¢, B-4a	OB30.00NB	Tierra del Fuego, Spring Hill, 50¢	RLBIN£229.00DNS
Nome, Belmont, (12½¢), B-7a	110.00OB	Tierra del Fuego, Spring Hill, 50¢	RLBIN£149.99DNS
Nome, BoT, 5¢, B-4a	OB250.00NB	OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist	
Nome, NP Bakery, 5¢, B-39a	OB110.00NB	RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve	
Palmer, ARRC, 5¢, PCGS-62	99.00OB	BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell	
Palmer, ARRC, 10¢, PCGS-58	OB699.00NB		
Palmer, ARRC, B-1 set of 8	RL699.00OB		
Palmer, ARRC, B-1 set of 8	457.00		
Pitks Point, \$1, B-1b	1,476.00		
Quadra, Southern AK Canning, \$1, B-1c	OB300.00NB	ANCHORAGE, Joe Flowers, 5¢, B-18aII	160.00
Ruby, Shel's, 25¢, B-5a	195.00OB	Chatanika, Bingle Fritz, \$1, B-1c	375.00
Ruby, Shel's, 25¢, B-5a	OB125.00NB	Circle, Eagle Saloon, 1 Drink, B-3a	600.00
Savoonga, set of 8, 1¢ to \$10	RLOB25.00NB	Cleary, Willis & Welch, 25¢, B-5a	140.00
Selavik, Rotman, \$1, B-1c	OB30.00NB	Dillingham, Lowe Trd., 5¢, B-4a	130.00
Seldovia, Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a	80.00OB	Douglas, Canteen Saloon, 5¢, B-4a	2,400.00
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	OB35.00NB	Latouche, Sealey \$1 nugget, B-3aII	5,500.00
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	30.00OB	Latouche, Little, 12½¢, B-3a	130.00
Seward, Palace, 12½¢, B-9c	56.00	Nome, Columbia, 1 Drink, B-17a	275.00
Seward, Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a	513.00	Nome, Lomen Bros., 25¢, B-30a	55.00
Sitka, Clements, 15¢, B-5a, dug, horrible!	587.00	Petersburg, Cruz, 5¢, B-1a	190.00
Sitka, Witz, 15¢, B-17b	95.00OB	Petersburg, Glacier Fish, 5¢, B-2a	75.00
Skagway, B ofT, 12½¢, B-4d	140.00OB	Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8a, oval	120.00
Skagway, McCready & Elliot, 7 pc set, B-16	OB75.00NB	Sitka, Romie's Place, 5¢, B-14, unl white metal	2,400.00
Skagway, Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23aI	OB250.00NB	Tonsina, Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	100.00
Tenakee, Brunswick Billiard, 12½¢, B-1a	459.00	Valdez, Copper Block, \$1, B-4cII with nugget	1250.00
Thane, Dug's Place, 12½¢, B-3b	OB40.00NB	Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1902, octagonal	700.00
Tonsina, Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	251.00	Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1901, round	700.00

SELECTED PRICES REALIZED

from Fred Holabird April auction.

Anchorage, Joe Flowers, 5¢, B-18aII	160.00
Chatanika, Bingle Fritz, \$1, B-1c	375.00
Circle, Eagle Saloon, 1 Drink, B-3a	600.00
Cleary, Willis & Welch, 25¢, B-5a	140.00
Dillingham, Lowe Trd., 5¢, B-4a	130.00
Douglas, Canteen Saloon, 5¢, B-4a	2,400.00
Latouche, Sealey \$1 nugget, B-3aII	5,500.00
Latouche, Little, 12½¢, B-3a	130.00
Nome, Columbia, 1 Drink, B-17a	275.00
Nome, Lomen Bros., 25¢, B-30a	55.00
Petersburg, Cruz, 5¢, B-1a	190.00
Petersburg, Glacier Fish, 5¢, B-2a	75.00
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8a, oval	120.00
Sitka, Romie's Place, 5¢, B-14, unl white metal	2,400.00
Tonsina, Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	100.00
Valdez, Copper Block, \$1, B-4cII with nugget	1250.00
Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1902, octagonal	700.00
Alaska Gold, ¼ Pinch, 1901, round	700.00

PUNTA ARENAS, CONT.

The stock is registered in both Chile and Argentina. It carries the portraits of the founders, Jose Menéndez and his wife Maria Behety de Menéndez and the dates 1874 and 1910 at the top center. Each corner has a vignette of various aspects of their business. The upper right has their headquarters in Punta Arenas; bottom right is a view of Estancia Primera Argentina near Rio Grande, Argentine Tierra del Fuego; bottom left a view of San Gregorio on the north shore of the Straits of Magellan in Chile; and upper left, the dock at San Gregorio with the steamship Amadeo. A history of this ship can be found at <http://www.histarmar.com.ar/InfHistorica/Last%20Port%20of%20Call/Amadeo.htm>. The stock and tokens were purchased from the captain's granddaughter!

Tokens were issued in the name of Estancias Primera y Segunda Argentina. Primera was established about 1896, while Segunda was established about 1898. The stock is dated 1911 (registration date in Chile and Argentina), but only Primera is noted in the vignette. Estancia Primera Argentina was later renamed Estancia José Menéndez while Estancia Segunda Argentina was renamed Estancia Maria Behety.

I was also fortunate to add two new Punta Arenas tokens to my collection, and one duplicate.

Hotel Comercio is listed in a 1914 trade directory for South America published by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The name is misspelled "Comercio" on the token, indicating that it was manufactured in a non-Spanish speaking country. All of the Punta Arenas tokens are 21mm, brass, very similar to many U.S. tokens, leading me to assume that these were made in the U.S.

The second new token was another "En Consumo" token. I must admit that I don't know how these were used, but suspect that since all other tokens are 20 centavos, that these traded at a similar value, possibly with a quasi-legal tender status during a coin shortage.

Finally, the third token was a duplicate. There are two varieties of the Hotel Imperial token. The first, obviously a die sinker's error, placed PTA (an abbreviation for Punta) along the rim at the end of Hotel Imperial. My specimen of this is a nice AU. On the second Punta Arenas in the center of the token. My original and now duplicate of these tokens are worn and appear dug, possibly indicating these were used, while the first was rejected and not used. A postcard of the not very imposing Hotel Imperial is shown below.

For my ease in keeping track of these tokens, I am bringing them all together on the next page.



PUNTA ARENAS TOKENS



1) Obv: A.L./PTA ARENAS/MAGALLANES
Rev: VALE POR/20/CTS./EN MERCADERIAS
Brass, 21mm.



2) Obv: CONSTANTINO/PTA ARENAS/
MAGALLANES
Rev: VALE POR/20/CTS./EN MERCADERIAS
Brass, 21mm.



3) Obv: HOTEL COMMERCIO
Rev: VALE POR 20 CTS./EN/
MERCADERIAS
Brass, 21mm, crescent cut-out



4) Obv: HOTEL IMPERIAL PTA/ARENAS
MAGALLANES
Rev: VALE POR/20/CTS./EN
MERCHADERIAS
Brass, 21mm



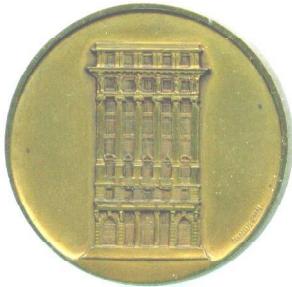
5) Obv: HOTEL IMPERIAL/PUNTA/ARENAS/
MAGALLANES
Rev: VALE POR/20/CTS./EN
MERCHADERIAS
Brass, 21mm

6) Obv: PUNTA/ARENAS
Rev: EN/CONSUMO
Brass, 21mm



7) Obv: PUNTA ARENAS (around rim)
Rev: EN CONSUMO (around rim)
Brass, 21mm

OTHER PATAGONIAN MEDALS



La Sociedad Anónima Importadora y Exportadora de la Patagonia was a firm established by José Menéndez and Mauricio Braun in 1908. This appears to be a presentation medal for 25 years of service. Note that the building looks to be the same as on the medal on the front page. Signed by Constante Rossi. The Rossi family were well known die cutters in Buenos Aires. Bronze, 38mm.



Sociedad Ganadera de Laguna Blanca was a sheep ranch north of Punta Arenas. This medal is for its 50th anniversary. The sheep obverse is also used on medals for the 50th anniversary of Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego. Bronze, 37mm.

“VALES”

Since we are on the subject of Punta Arenas, here is some information on private currency or vales. Note that Menéndez-Behety is listed among the backers.

In her book, “Tierra del Fuego,” Rae Natalie Prosser Goodall” states that: “On the south side of Tierra del Fuego, Argentine money has always been used, although pound sterling, Chilean pesos and pure gold were also in circulation at various times. But on the north side of the island the naval ships arrived many years later. All contact was with Punta Arenas by ship or by crossing the Island to Porvenir. Chilean money or pounds sterling were used until 1925. The Freezer paid in *vales* (promissory notes) until about 1934.”



Reduced. Actual size 210mm x 83mm

This description makes these sound like the “Vale” we have from Punta Arenas.

David Guevara of Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina sent the following. It is translated from “*A Hacha, cuñ y golpe*” Residents’ of Rio Grande Memories by Maria Luisa Bou and Elida Repetto, 1995.

Memories of Mirko Milosevik (1925).

“There was no frontier between Porvenir and Río Grande, it is as if it was one country. I arrive here (Río Grande, Argentina), they assisted me very well. I didn’t have a slip to enter or anything. I came without passport, in those years it was not demanded a lot. Manpower was needed and they could pass anyone. Formerly, when I ended up working here, they didn’t pay us. They gave us a notebook of the Compañía Frigorífica Argentina and in that notebook one wrote down the salary, what we bought in the warehouse, and they made us the discount. When we wanted to leave for Chile they gave us a “vale” to get paid in Punta Arenas in the Office of Menéndez. When we wanted to come it stops here, the office of Menéndez gave us passages, to go and to come, because I eat there was not personal they didn’t want to lose it.”

This description makes a “vale” sound like a paycheck, to be cashed with Menéndez.

Further research will be required to learn if the vales issued by Compañía Frigorífica Argentina were in the form of currency like the Punta Arenas vale, or if they took the form of a paycheck, to be cashed when the worker went to Punta Arenas.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, America's Arctic Warriors. Bronze with blue, white, red, black and yellow enamel. 89 x approximately 38mm (reduced). Hard to call this a challenge coin!



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, Judge Advocate General's Corps. Bronze with white, red, blue, black and yellow enamel, 38mm.



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, 59th Signal Battalion. Bronze with blue, black, red, white and orange enamel, 57 x 32mm.



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, 207th Regional Training Institute, Attitude to learn, Desire to Lead, Presented by the Commander. Bronze with blue, red, yellow, white black and green enamel, 54 x 32mm.



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, 59th Signal Battalion, Coin of Excellence, Ft. Wainwright, Ft. Greeley, Ft. Richardson. Bronze with blue, yellow, black and green enamel, 44mm.



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, They who hold Alaska will hold the world. Presented by Deputy Commander, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? Here I am, send me!" America's Arctic Warriors. Brz., 51 x 35mm.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS, CONT.



KULIS ANGB: 176th Security Forces Squadron. Bronze with blue, white and yellow enamel.



ALASKA: Western Regional Dental Command; Ft. Irwin, Ft. Lewis, and Alaska. Coin of Excellence. Bronze with blue and white enamel, 51mm.



ICELAND: Iceland Defence Force; U.S., Iceland, NATO. Two versions; antiqued bronze without enamel (above) and oxidized bronze with white, light blue and dark blue enamel.



ICELAND: Keflavik, 85th TF (Tanker Flight). Brass. Bronze reported Jan. 2005, page 5.



ALASKA CHALLENGE COINS



ALASKA: Special Emergency Reaction Team, Alaska State Troopers. Antiqued bronze.



ICELAND: U.S. Naval Hospital, Keflavik. Neat Viking ship on map of Iceland. Gold, red, blue, black and white enamel.

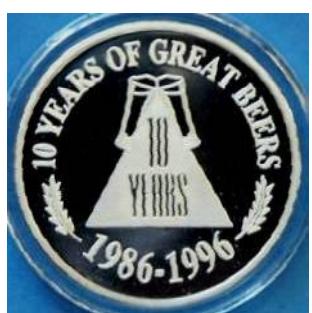


ALASKA: Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Alaska State Troopers. Blue and white enamel on brass.

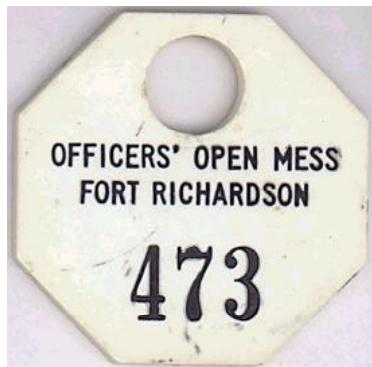
FOR THE RECORD



JUNEAU: Purity Pharmacy, 6 1/4¢, B-61. Brass, 21mm. Unlisted denomination.



(EXCURSION INLET): A. & P. S. C. Co., \$5 I/T, B-1. Aluminum, 30mm. Unlisted denomination



FORT RICHARDSON: Officer's Open Mess, black on white plastic, 46mm. Probably a coat check. (Holabird).



The Charles M. Robbins Co.
Manufacturers of Badges and Medals
Attleboro, Mass.



(KETCHIKAN): Kar House, serenity pray token. Brass, 33mm. Attributed to Ketchikan by Kaye Dethridge.

JUNEAU: Alaska Brewing Co., 10 years of great beers, 1986-1996. One ounce silver. (illustrated at the top of the next column).

SASKATCHEWAN: IOOF from Saskatchewan to Seattle, 1909. For the AYPE? 45mm across. (eBay, PR \$60.60)



CHURCHILL, MANITOBA: Arctic Trading Company, \$5 in trade. Churchill on Hudson Bay is the "Polar Bear Capital" and this has a nice portrait of a polar bear. Nickel, 30mm.